

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2       The Committee on Human Services to which was referred House Bill No.  
3       534 entitled “An act relating to community action agencies” respectfully  
4       reports that it has considered the same and recommends the bill be amended by  
5       striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the  
6       following:

7       Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. chapter 59 is amended to read:

8               CHAPTER 59. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCIES

9               § 3901. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

10               (a) Recognizing that the economic well-being and social equity of every  
11       Vermonter has long been a fundamental concern of the State, it remains  
12       evident that ~~poverty continues to be the lot of~~ a substantial number of  
13       Vermont’s population continues to experience poverty. It is the policy of ~~this~~  
14       the State to help develop the full potential of each of its citizens so they can  
15       contribute to the fullest extent possible to the life of our communities and the  
16       State as a whole.

17               (b) It is the purpose of this chapter to strengthen, supplement, and  
18       coordinate efforts that further this policy through:

19                       (1) the strengthening of community capabilities for planning,  
20       coordinating, and managing federal, State, and other sources of assistance  
21       related to the problem of poverty;

6 § 3902. OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

19 (1) to secure and retain meaningful employment;

20 (2) to obtain adequate education;

21 (3) to make better use of available income;

1 (4) to provide and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living

2 environment have access to safe, secure, and permanent housing;

3 (5) to obtain prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services

4 for the prevention of narcotics addiction, alcoholism, and for the rehabilitation

5 of narcotic addicts and alcoholics individuals with substance use disorder;

6 (6) to obtain emergency assistance through loans and grants to meet

7 immediate and urgent individual and family needs, including the need for

8 health services, nutritious food, housing, and unemployment-related assistance;

9 (7) to remove obstacles and solve personal and family problems that

10 block achievement of self-sufficiency;

11 (8) to achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community;

12 (9) to make more frequent and effective use of other programs related to

13 the purposes of this chapter; and

14 (10) to coordinate and establish linkages between governmental and

15 other social service programs to ensure the effective delivery of such services

16 to ~~low income~~ persons; with low income and to encourage the use of entities in

17 the private sector of the community in efforts to ameliorate poverty in the

18 community.

19 (c) The Director is authorized to adopt rules pursuant to chapter 25 of this

1       § 3903. DESIGNATION OF AGENCIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND  
2                   ACTIVITIES TO AMELIORATE OR ELIMINATE POVERTY

3               The Director shall designate private nonprofit ~~community~~ based  
4        ~~community-based~~ organizations ~~who~~ that have demonstrated or ~~who~~ that can  
5        demonstrate the ability to provide services and activities as defined in  
6        subsection 3902(b) of this title as community ~~services~~ action agencies.

7        § 3904. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCY ASSESSMENT  
8                   AND PLAN

9               Each designated community ~~services~~ action agency shall determine the need  
10        for activities and services within the area served by the agency ~~and shall~~  
11        ~~thereafter prepare a community services plan that describes the method by~~  
12        ~~which the agency will provide those services every three years, complete an~~  
13        ~~assessment, and incorporate that information into an annual community action~~  
14        ~~plan.~~ The plan shall include a schedule for the anticipated provision of new or  
15        ~~additional ongoing~~ services and shall specify the resources that are needed by  
16        and available to the agency to implement the plan. ~~The community services~~  
17        ~~plan shall be updated annually.~~

18        § 3905. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCIES;  
19                   ADMINISTRATION

4 (b) Each board of a nonprofit ~~community based~~ community-based  
5 organization that is designated a community ~~service~~ action agency under  
6 section 3903 of this chapter shall have an executive committee of not more  
7 than seven members who shall be representative of the composition of the  
8 board and the board shall be so constituted that:

9 (1) ~~one third of the members of the board are elected public officials~~  
10 ~~currently holding office, or their designees, except that if the number of elected~~  
11 ~~officials reasonably available and willing to serve is less than one third of the~~  
12 ~~membership of the board, membership on the board of appointive public~~  
13 ~~officials may be counted in meeting such one third requirement:~~

14                   (2) a minimum of one-third of the members of the board are persons  
15 chosen in accordance with election procedures adequate to ensure that they are  
16 representative of ~~the poor~~ individuals with low income in the area served; and

17                   (2) one-third of the members of the board are elected public officials  
18                   currently holding office, or their designees, except that if the number of elected  
19                   officials reasonably available and willing to serve is less than one-third of the  
20                   membership of the board, membership on the board of appointive public  
21                   officials may be counted in meeting such one-third requirement; and

4 (c) Each member of the a board selected to represent a specific geographic  
5 area within a community shall reside in the area ~~he or she~~ the member  
6 represents. ~~No person selected under subdivision (b)(2) or (3) of this section~~  
7 ~~as a member of a board shall serve on such board for more than five~~  
8 ~~consecutive years, or more than a total of 10 years~~ Each board shall adopt term  
9 limits to govern its members.

## 10 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

11           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

12

13

14

15

16

18

Representative \_\_\_\_\_

19